

Remarks/Argument

This paper is submitted responsive to the office action mailed May 17, 2005. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid action, the Examiner indicated claims 2, 4 and 10 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. This indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.

The Examiner also rejected claims 8, 11 and 12 as anticipated by US Patent Number 3,725,973 to Gwozdz (hereafter "Gwozdz") and rejected claims 1, 3 and 5-7 and 9 as obvious based upon Gwozdz in view of US Patent Number 4,809,402 to Rainville (hereafter "Rainville"). Reconsideration of these rejections based upon the following remarks and the amendments to claims 1 and 8 is respectfully solicited.

In connection with independent claim 1, this claim has been amended to recite that at least one of the shoulder portions extends radially outwardly from the cylindrical portion. This is as clearly shown in the drawings, and is to provide a structure which shields the face of the lug from wear. It is noted that neither Gwozdz nor Rainville discloses or suggests such a structure. It is submitted that claim 1 as amended is allowable over the art of record.

In connection with independent claim 8, this claim has also been amended to recite that at least one of the shoulders extends radially outwardly from the cylindrical portion, and this claim is likewise submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

Dependent claims 3 and 5-7 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable based upon this dependence, and further in their own right.

Dependent claims 9 and 11-12 all depend directly or

indirectly from claim 8 and are believed to be allowable based upon this dependence, and further in their own right.

New dependent claims 13-16 have been added and are drawn more specifically to the radially extending nature of the shoulders of the present invention. These claims are submitted to be allowable based upon their dependency from independent claims 1 or 8, respectively, and also in their own right as none of the art of record discloses or suggests such subject matter.

Claims 2, 4 and 10 which were indicated allowable have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

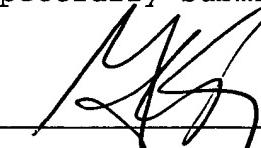
An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

Appl. No. 10/731,323  
Amdt. Dated Aug. 17, 2005  
Reply to Office action of May 17, 2005

It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this response. If any fee is due, please charge same to deposit account no. 02-0184.

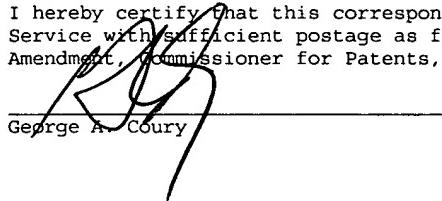
Respectfully submitted,

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August 17, 2005

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on August 17, 2005.

  
George A. Coury